

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Prospects for Violence

*The regime is moving additional security forces into position and reportedly has canceled military leaves in preparation for expected demonstrations today.*

The size and number of patrols equipped for riot control have increased in Warsaw, several military convoys were observed in the capital area, and other units appear to be on alert in their garrisons near Gdansk, Szczecin, and Lublin.

At least some demonstrators have considered means of self-defense.

A senior Church official told [redacted] that the mood in the factories is the "major unknown" and expressed the hope that the militia would avoid violence.

Soviet forces in Poland appear to be conducting normal training activity near their garrisons.

Comment: Some violence is likely today. The regime has backed itself into a corner with its strong warnings of the past week and will feel compelled to meet demonstrators with force regardless of the size of the crowds.

The extent of violence will primarily depend on the government's tactics. There will be less violence and fewer personal injuries if demonstrators are prevented from gathering than if they are allowed to congregate and then "taught a lesson" by the police.

The Soviets will seek to avoid any overt involvement in the Polish Government's efforts to control the demonstrations.

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